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To: Members of the Appropriations/Finance & Claims Joint Subcommittee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee;

I am a graduate of the University of Montana, and have worked in Montana most of the past 30 years. It has been my pleasure to interact with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) over much of this time. I have found the MBMG staff to be competent and courteous. Their advice and input over the years has been extremely valuable to my consulting business.

The Bureau staff has produced **digital** geological maps in recent years. These maps can be downloaded on the internet by the public (free of charge), and customized in GIS software.

The next page is an example of a map that I had made from the MBMG products. These maps are used extensively by a number of professionals, including:

- Geologists
- Environmental Consultants
- Hydrologists (to determine the location of aquifers)
- Land Use Planners (including for assessing impacts from sewage and septic systems).
- Ground Stability Engineers (for assessments of earthquake and landslide hazards).
- Local, State, and Federal Agencies.

The last page shows the MBMG web page that allows anyone to easily locate and download these maps.

This is a difficult budget year, but I can assure you that continued funding of the MBMG mapping programs is in the best interest of the state. I am familiar with similar agencies from other western states. The Montana Bureau runs on a lean budget, and still puts out quality work.

I would be happy to discuss this in more detail with anyone that is interested. My contact information is above.

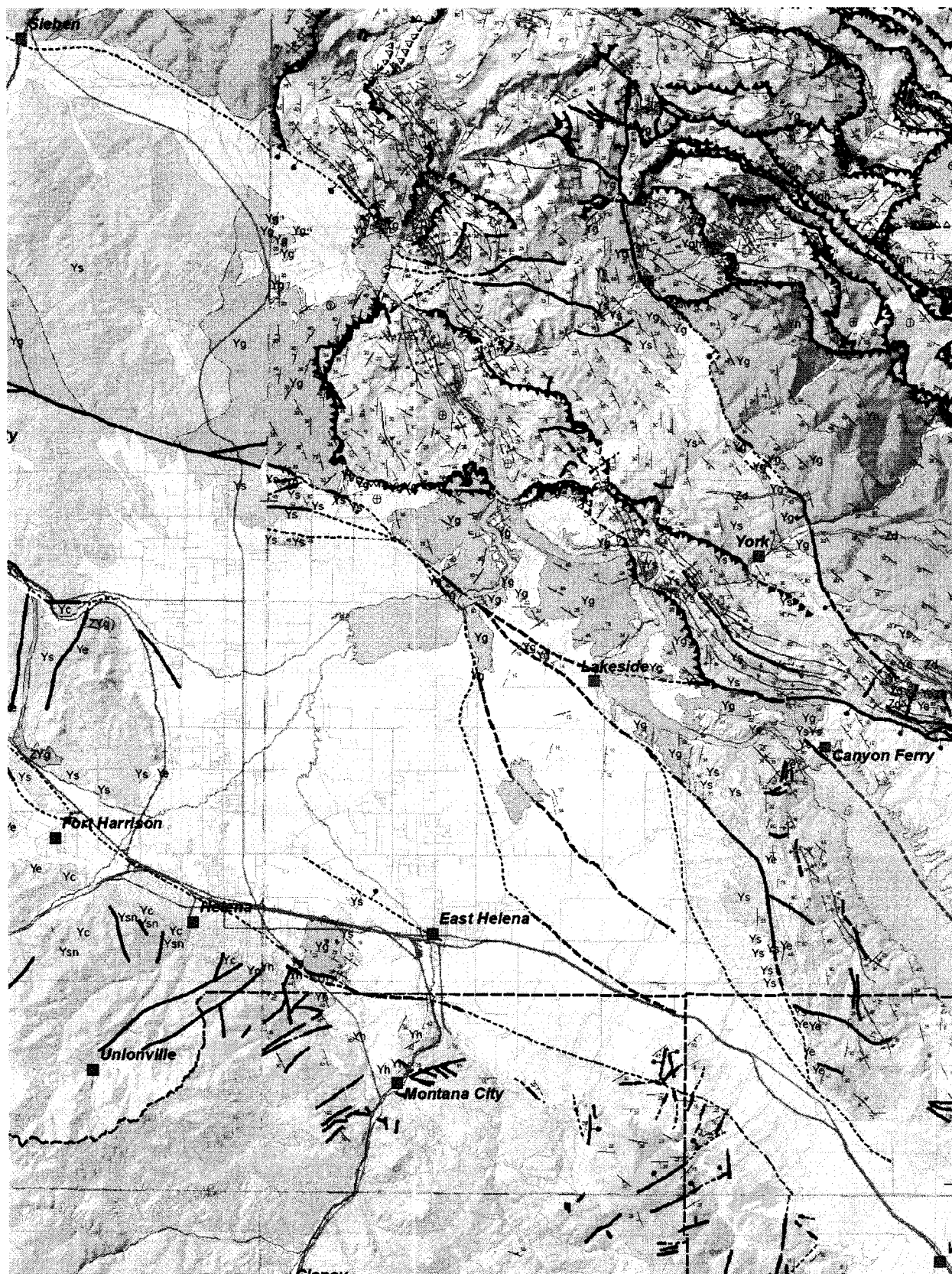
Sincerely,



Fess Foster, Ph.D., CPG, OP

GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE HELENA, MONTANA AREA CUSTOM MADE FROM
MBMG DIGITAL MAPS AVAILABLE ON THEIR WEBSITE

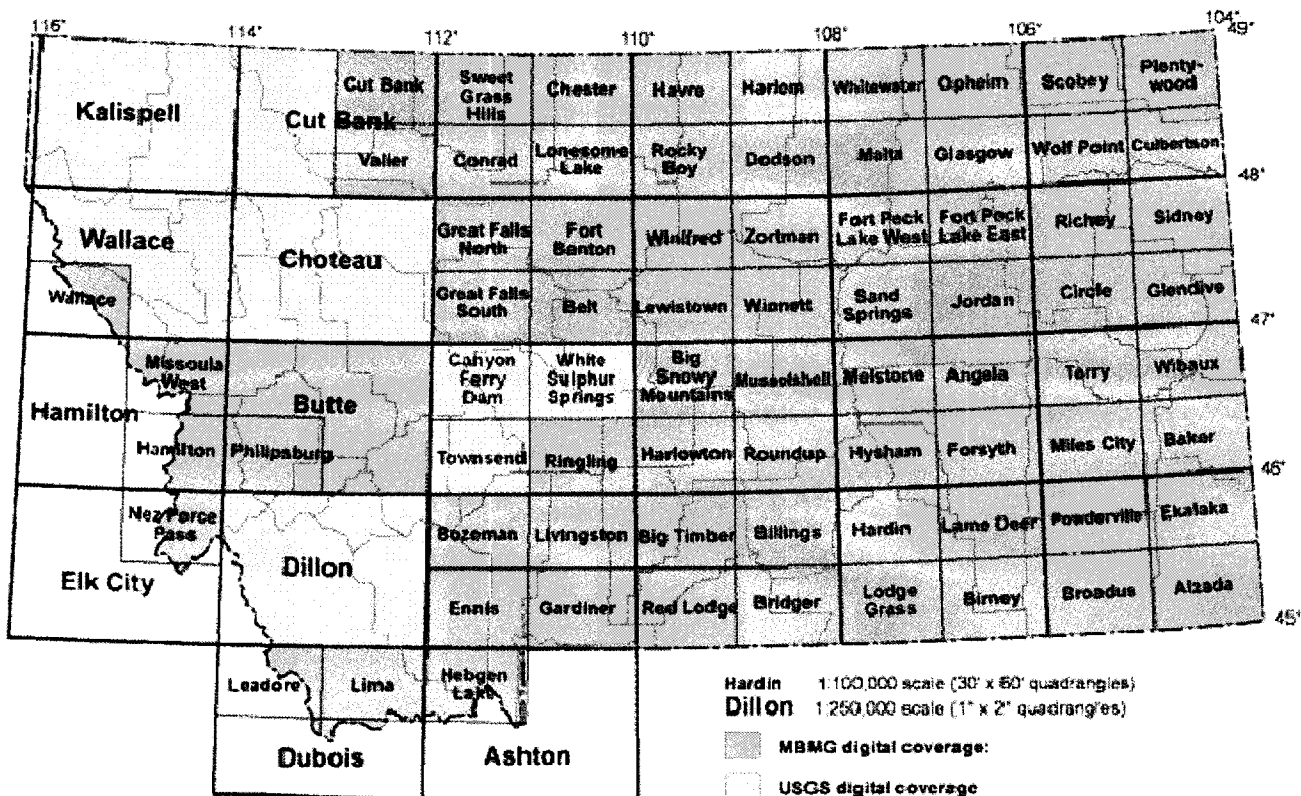
Note the level of detail. You can see the mountains beneath the colors, rivers and lakes, highways, and even individual streets in Helena.



**THIS IS THE MBMG WEB PAGE THAT ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO DOWNLOAD DIGITAL
GEOLOGICAL MAPS FOR THE ENTIRE STATE**

Digital Products for Geologic Mapping in Montana

Digital data are available for downloading via FTP. Find [digital data links](#) here.



Geologic maps with digital data

Check out our [STATEMAP](#) page to find the publication name, series number.

[Digital data](#) for USGS produced maps are available from the USGS

